



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
www.mass.gov/masshealth

Important Notice about Your MassHealth Benefits

Over the next two years, important changes will be happening for MassHealth-enrolled children with a “serious emotional disturbance.” These changes will include improvements in screening and assessment for behavioral-health conditions and the development of new behavioral-health services.

MassHealth is sending you this notice to remind you about the behavioral-health services that your child can get today and to tell you about improvements MassHealth is making to behavioral-health screenings, assessments, and services.

These changes are being made in connection with a federal class-action lawsuit called *Rosie D. v. Patrick* and referred to in this notice as the “Rosie D. Case.” The Rosie D. Case orders MassHealth to improve certain screening services offered by your child’s primary-care doctor or nurse and to cover certain diagnostic and treatment services for MassHealth-enrolled Standard and CommonHealth children under the age of 21 with a “serious emotional disturbance.” This definition also includes children who have both serious emotional disturbance and another condition, such as autism spectrum disorder, at the same time.

Standardized Behavioral-Health (Mental Health and Substance Abuse) Screens by Primary-Care Doctors and Nurses

Currently, MassHealth pays for members who are under age 21 (except those with MassHealth Limited) to see their primary-care doctor or nurse for “well child” visits at least once every year and more often if the child is under age two. At these visits, your child’s primary-care doctor or nurse will check your child’s health, dental health, behavioral health, development, and need for immunizations. MassHealth members under age 21 can also visit their primary-care doctor or nurse any time there might be something wrong.

As a result of the Rosie D. Case, MassHealth will require primary-care doctors and nurses to offer to use a standardized behavioral-health screening tool to check a child’s behavioral health during his or her “well-child” visits. Screening helps to identify concerns early and provides an opportunity to discuss a child’s behavioral-health needs with his or her primary-care doctor or nurse or specialist.

The behavioral-health screening tool is a short list of questions or a checklist that the parent, guardian, or child (depending on the child’s age) fills out and then talks about with the primary-care doctor or nurse. The doctor or nurse might use:

- the Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC);
- the Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS); or
- some other tool.

You can ask your child's primary-care doctor or nurse which tool he or she will use.

Talking about the completed screening tool will help you and your child's doctor or nurse decide if follow-up care or further assessment is needed. If you decide that your child needs to see a behavioral-health provider, your child's primary-care doctor or nurse will tell you how to get needed services. For additional assistance, call your child's health plan or call MassHealth Customer Service. These phone numbers are at the end of this notice.

MassHealth members who are under age 21 and enrolled in a MassHealth managed-care plan will get these screening services from the primary-care doctor or nurse in the plan that they selected. MassHealth members under age 21 who are not enrolled in a managed-care plan will be able to get these services from any MassHealth primary-care doctor or nurse.

You can call your child's health plan or MassHealth Customer Service to find a primary-care doctor or nurse.

Standardized Needs Assessments Conducted by a Behavioral-Health (Mental Health and Substance Abuse) Provider

Starting in late 2008, when your child sees a behavioral-health provider, the provider will assess your child using the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. The CANS tool will help the behavioral-health provider collect information about your child and make recommendations about your child's behavioral-health needs. Your child's behavioral-health provider will work with you to decide if your child should be referred for treatment.

Behavioral-Health (Mental Health and Substance Abuse) Services Available Now

Your child can get office visits with a behavioral-health provider if he or she needs them. If your child needs more than office visits with a behavioral-health provider, MassHealth currently covers services that your child may need, such as Family Stabilization Team (FST) services. MassHealth will continue to offer these behavioral-health services. For questions about these services and to get more information about how to get them, talk to your child's primary-care doctor or nurse, your child's behavioral-health provider, your child's health plan, or MassHealth Customer Service.

Your child does not need to have a "serious emotional disturbance" to get these services, but the services must be determined to be medically necessary for your child before MassHealth will pay for them.

Additional Behavioral-Health (Mental Health and Substance Abuse) Services for MassHealth Standard and CommonHealth Members under the Age of 21

MassHealth will cover several new behavioral-health services for MassHealth Standard and CommonHealth members under the age of 21, once MassHealth gets approval from the federal government for these services. After MassHealth gets this approval, we will give you more information about these new services.

To Get Behavioral-Health Services for Your Child

If your child is enrolled in a MassHealth managed-care plan, please call the plan's customer-service department.

Boston Medical Center (BMC) HealthNet Plan

1-888-217-3501

TTY: 1-800-421-1220 (for people with partial or total hearing loss)

Fallon Community Health Plan

1-800-868-5200

TTY: 1-877-608-7677 (for people with partial or total hearing loss)

Neighborhood Health Plan

1-800-462-5449

TTY: 1-800-655-1761 (for people with partial or total hearing loss)

Network Health

1-888-257-1985

TTY: 617-806-8196 (for people with partial or total hearing loss)

Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan

1-800-841-2900

TTY: 1-800-497-4648 (for people with partial or total hearing loss)

Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership

1-800-495-0086

TTY: 617-790-4130 (for people with partial or total hearing loss)

If your child is not enrolled in a health plan through MassHealth, please call:

MassHealth Customer Service

1-800-841-2900

TTY: 1-800-497-4648 (for people with partial or total hearing loss)

Questions

If you have questions about the Rosie D. Case, please call MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800-497-4648 for people with partial or total hearing loss) between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M., Monday through Friday. Tell the Customer Service Representative that you are calling to ask about the Rosie D. Case.